2014 Healthy Soil Mini-Grant Final Report

Submitted by Delaware SWCD

Project Title: Proper Lawn Care Starts with Soil Tests

Project Completed: June 4, 2014

Major Accomplishments: The Delaware SWCD was able to host 3 different adult educational workshops, all raising awareness on soil health and runoff reduction. The first two workshops were held in urban townships and taught how proper soil nutrients and soil testing can impact water quality. Speakers from ODNR Division of Wildlife, Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, Del-Co Water, and Delaware SWCD all spoke on different topics. Please refer to the enclosed advertising flier copies to see session descriptions. Each participant received a free soil testing kit to Cal-Mar Labs in Westerville. They were encouraged to send their soil samples to the lab once the weather permitted soil samples to be pulled. A total of 23 people attended these two workshops. The most documentable comment made after the conclusion of the workshop was how residents are pleased to see four different public service agencies working together, addressing water quality topics.

The remaining educational opportunity sponsored by this grant was *Cover Crops for Gardens* event. Our office has been getting a lot of questions about cover crops from non-farmers as well as many of farmers. We organized cover crops for gardens event for county residents to come see 10 different cover crops growing in grid-plots in a large garden. Please refer to the advertising flier to see the detailed descriptions of each presentation. This event was organized because of community interest and attendance supported the workshop very well. We had 37 people attend the event. Feedback from the event was excellent. Nearly every participant verbally noted walking the cover crop garden plots, identifying each species, understanding its growth capabilities, hearing how to terminate its growth, and seeing the benefits to the soil was the most beneficial part of the workshop.

Plans for Continuation: Based on some interest and other suggestions from the community, the plan is to continue working with the lawn care theme in 2015. The Delaware SWCD will host a landscaping school in early 2015, offering continuing education credits to the landscapers who attend. Training on soil testing, runoff reduction landscape design techniques, and numerous other sessions will be provided to landscapers.

SOIL TESTING AND LANDSCAPE CARE WORKSHOP

All attendees receive free soil test to take home and use.

Date: Tuesday, March 11th

Time: 7 – 8:30pm

Location: City of Powell Municipal Building, 47 Hall Street, Powell, Ohio

Interactive Presentations given by:

ODNR Division of Wildlife – Managing geese on ponds and the waste they leave

Scotts Miracle-Gro Company –Fertilizer products for new lawns vs. maintaining existing lawns; proper fertilizer application

Del-Co Water – Proper summertime irrigation and water conservation

Delaware SWCD – Soil fertility and how to take soil samples for soil test analysis

This workshop is free, however registration is required so adequate soil test kits will be available. RSVP to Delaware SWCD at 740-368-1921 or dona-rhea@delawareswcd.org

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

THE Scotts Miracle-Gro COMPANY

Delaware Soil & Water Conservation District
Helping You Help the Land

Powell

DEL-CO WATER COMPANY

SOIL TESTING AND WATER QUALITY WORKSHOP

All attendees receive free soil test to take home and use.

Date: Tuesday, April 29th

Time: 7 – 8:30pm

Location: Genoa Township Hall, 5111 S. Old 3C Hwy, Westerville

Interactive presentations followed by question and answer time given by:

ODNR Division of Wildlife – Managing geese on ponds and the waste they leave

Scotts Miracle-Gro Company –Fertilizer products for new lawns vs. maintaining existing lawns; proper fertilizer application

Del-Co Water – Proper summertime irrigation and water conservation

Delaware SWCD – Soil fertility and how to take soil samples for soil test analysis

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THE Scotts Miracle-Gro COMPANY

Delaware Soil & Water Conservation District
Helping You Help the Land

GENOA TOWNSHIP "A Nice Place To Live"

DEL-CO WATER COMPANY

Cover Crops for Gardens

Free soil test kit provided to all attendees.

Delaware Soil & Water Conservation District
Helping You Help the Land

Field Day Details

When: June 4, 2014

Time: 7pm

Where: John Miller's Garden Plots
2922 Berlin Station Road
Delaware, Ohio 43015

Event is free, but registration is required so adequate soil test kits and handouts are available. RSVP to Delaware SWCD at 740-368-1921 or dona-rhea@delawareswcd.org.

Topics Covered:

Garden Cover Crops – What to plant, when to plant, and how to terminate their growth before planting your garden. *Jay Brandt, Walnut Creek Seeds*

Getting the Most Production from your Garden Soil – Review soil fertility, compare soil improvements with and without cover crops; see how to correctly pull soil samples for soil tests. *Dona Rhea, Delaware SWCD*

Identifying Garden Cover Crop Plants – Walk garden plots to see seven different cover crop varieties growing, and identify each species.
John Miller, host, SWCD Board Member

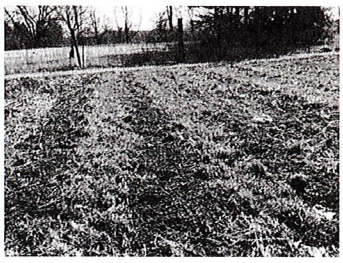
Garden Cover Crop Panel Discussion – Listen to 2 Master Gardeners tell their experiences of what cover crops they use, the benefits to their garden, and how they terminate the cover crop growth. *OSU Extension Master Gardeners*

High Tunnels – What they are, how they benefit garden production, and how to get funding to build one.
Eliezer Ortiz-Barbosa, NRCS

Oats	Summer Cover Mix	Row of Oats Row of Triticale
Radish	Buckwheat	Triticale
Vetch – Coated Seed	Vetch – Uncoated Seed	Crimson Clover

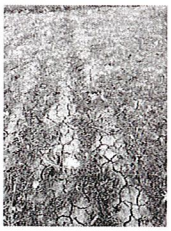
Winter Rye from 2013

Garden Cover Crop Grid

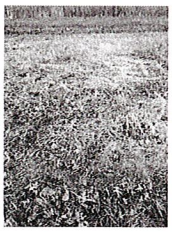


March 18, 2014 @ John Miller's

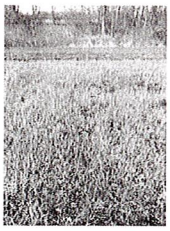
Winter rye planted last year between tomato rows. Cut down rye that went to seed and placed the rye straw (with seed on it) between tomatoes for ground cover. The rye came up in fall after tomatoes were removed.



Garden without any cover crops.



Garden with rye stubble.



Garden with rye to be tilled in this spring.

April 23, 2014 @ John Miller's

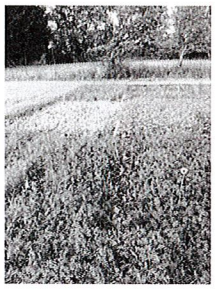
May 10, 2014 @ John Miller's

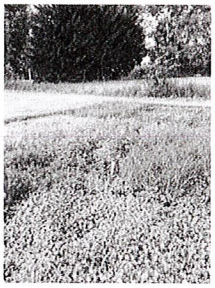
Ryegrass growing between rows of peas.

Ryegrass growing between rows of peas. Rye gets hoed down before it goes to seed. You can see some of the rye already hoed down.

Photo of cover crops grid coming up.

May 28, 2014 @ John Miller's



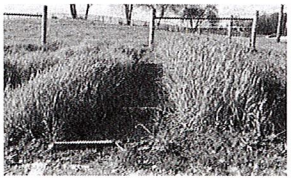


Cover crops growing in grid plots.

Garden Cover Crop @ 4WileyFarm

March 6, 2014 Annual Ryegrass growing in mounded rows.

May 3, 2014 Annual Ryegrass growing in mounded rows right before cutting and turning it for termination.



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